Serial No. 09/916,415
Atty. Doc. No. A34482PCT-USA(071308.0207)
     (1999P03046US01)

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

1.   (currently amended) A method for transmitting data over the Internet, comprising transmitting from a client a first connection request for setting up a first transmission channel via an Internet connection to an Internet Server, transmitting from a client a second connection request for setting up a second transmission channel via an Internet connection to the Internet Server, wherein the first and second connection requests are successively transmitted, the first transmission channel and the second transmission channel bidirectionally transmit and receive, independently of one another in terms of timing, data between the client and the Internet Server over the Internet, the first transmission channel being used as a back channel for transmitting user data from the Internet Server to the client, the second transmission channel being used as a forward channel for transmitting requests from the client to the Internet Server, the first and second transmission channels provided as a distributed DCOM object, ~~and~~ the Internet server being a DCOM server~~.~~, and dummy data are transmitted in the absence of user data for the sole purpose of maintaining the transmission channels.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein information is transmitted to the Internet Server in order to maintain the transmission channels, said information informing the Internet Server that there is an intention to transmit user data.

4.   (currently amended) The method ~~as~~ according to claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein data for operating and monitoring an automation system is provided over the Internet.

5.   (canceled)

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      6.   (currently amended) A device for transmitting data over the Internet, comprising a data processor which can be connected to the Internet of a client, the data processor being provided for setting up a first data connection in the form of a first transmission channel and a second data connection in the form of a second transmission channel to an Internet Server, wherein the first and second connection requests are successively transmitted, the first transmission channel and the second transmission channel bidirectionally transmit and receive, independently of one another in terms of timing, data between the client and the Internet Server over the Internet, the first transmission channel being used as a back channel for transmitting user data from the Internet Server to the client, the second transmission channel being used as a forward channel for transmitting requests from the client to the Internet Server, the first and second transmission channels provided as a distributed DCOM object, and the Internet server being a DCOM server., and dummy data are transmitted in the absence of user data for the sole purpose of maintaining the transmission channels.

      7.   (canceled)

      8.   (original) The device according to claim 6, wherein the transmission channels are capable of informing the Internet Server that there is an intention to transmit user data.

      9.   (original) The device according to claim 6, wherein data for operating and monitoring an automation system is provided over the Internet.

      10.   (canceled)

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